

STATE OF LOUISIANA
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION
GROUND WATER RESOURCES

JOINT MEETING

IN RE: GROUND WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
& THE GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY TASK FORCE

REPORT OF MEETING

HELD AT
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
MARCH 26, 2004

STATE OF LOUISIANA
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION
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Report of the meeting of the Ground Water Resources
Commission, State of Louisiana, on March 26, 2004, in
Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

COMMISSION MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

James H. Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation
Mark Gulotta, Louisiana Municipal Association
Linda Walker, Wildlife Federation, Coalition to Restore
Coastal Louisiana and the League of Women Voters
Darwin Knochenmus, Capital Area Groundwater District
Linda Zaunbrecher, Louisiana Farm Bureau
Steve Chustz, Department of Environmental Quality
Mike Taylor, Department of Economic Development
Brad Spicer, Department of Agriculture & Forestry
John Roussel, Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Bo Bolourchi, Department of Transportation & Development
Karen Irion, Department of Health & Hospitals
Mike Bourgeois, Louisiana Landowners Association
Walter Savage, Police Jury Association
Richard Durrett, Sparta Groundwater Conservation District

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order - James Welsh
- II. Overview of Act 49 (2003)
- III. Ground Water Resources Division
- IV. Commission Charge to Task Force
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Schedule for Next Meeting
- VII. Adjourn

GROUND WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
& THE GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY TASK FORCE
MARCH 26, 2004

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COMMISSIONER WELSH:

It's a little past 9:30, so let's get started. We have kind of an organizational pickle going on here. By the statute, what the statute says is that the Commissioner from the Governor's Office shall be the chairman of this Commission, and he's not here. I'm maybe assuming a lot, but I guess I should take over in his absence. I'm Jim Welsh, the Commissioner of Conservation, and as you know, the Commission and the Task Force both are within the organization of the Office of Conservation. So with no objection from anybody, I'll just proceed on, and we'll do the best we can today. And I do know that Jim Marchand, who was with Governor's Office, is, as we speak, the official Governor's Office designee, but that was under Governor Foster, and, you know, he's still the representative, but there may be a change there. We have a new Jim Marchand, if you will. His name is Scott Kirkpatrick, and he should be here this morning in a little while. He is an attorney with the Governor's Office, and he is our contact person for when DNR and other agencies need to talk to the Governor's Office. He's the guy we go through, but, anyway, he will be here a little later, and we'll introduce him at that time. I think probably what we should start off doing is the Commission Members are up here, and it looks like

1 we've got a pretty good turnout, some old faces, some new
2 faces. Maybe we could start over on my right, and we
3 could all introduce ourselves and tell us who we're with
4 and a little bit about each other.

5 **COMMISSIONER GULOTTA:**

6 I'm Mark Gulotta, Mayor of the City of Plaquemine.
7 I'm up here representing the Louisiana Municipal
8 Association.

9 **COMMISSIONER WALKER:**

10 I'm Linda Walker with the League of Women Voters of
11 Louisiana, and I'm representing the League and the
12 Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana and the Louisiana
13 Wildlife Federation.

14 **COMMISSIONER KNOCHENMUS:**

15 Darwin Knochenmus, I represent Capital Area
16 Groundwater Conservation District.

17 **COMMISSIONER ZAUNBRECHER:**

18 Linda Zaunbrecher, Louisiana Farm Bureau.

19 **COMMISSIONER CHUSTZ:**

20 Steve Chustz, Department of Environmental Quality.

21 **COMMISSIONER TAYLOR:**

22 Mike Taylor, Louisiana Department of Economic
23 Development.

24 **COMMISSIONER SPICER:**

25 Brad Spicer, representing the Commissioner of
26 Agriculture and Forestry and Administrator of the State's
27 Soil and Water Conservation Program.

28 **COMMISSIONER ROUSSEL:**

29 John Roussel, I'm the Assistant Secretary of the
30

1 Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and serving as the
2 Secretary's designee.

3 **COMMISSIONER BOLOURCHI:**

4 I'm Bo Bolourchi, Deputy Assistant Secretary for
5 Public Works, Water Resources Division, and I represent
6 the Department of Transportation.

7 **COMMISSIONER IRION:**

8 I'm Karen Irion, Administrator of the Safe Drinking
9 Water Program and representing the Department of Health
10 and Hospitals.

11 **COMMISSIONER BOURGEOIS:**

12 Mike Bourgeois of the Louisiana Landowners
13 Association.

14 **COMMISSIONER SAVAGE:**

15 Walter Savage, Louisiana Police Jury Association.

16 **COMMISSIONER DURRETT:**

17 Richard Durrett, representing the Sparta Groundwater
18 Conservation District.

19 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

20
21 Okay. Very good. It's a great turnout. I
22 appreciate that. I know it's a big effort to get here.
23 And this is also a joint meeting of the Task Force,
24 Ground Water Task Force, and members of the task force
25 are in the audience, and I don't mean to discriminate,
26 but we just don't have enough room up here, so we just
27 did the best we could. And I guess let's start on -- I'd
28 like for each Task Force member to stand and identify
29 themselves as well, and maybe we could start -- let's
30 just go from left to right, and if you're on the Task

1 Force could you identify yourself, please.

2 **MR. PREAU:**

3 Ed Preau with the Louisiana Department of
4 Transportation and Development representing the Red River
5 Compact Commission.

6 **MR. PAUL:**

7 I'm Britt Paul with the Natural Resource
8 Conservation Service. I'm representing Mr. Don Gohmert
9 here today.

10 **MR. WASCOM:**

11 I'm Mike Wascom. I'm with LSU. I'm representing
12 Citizens for a Clean Environment.

13 **MR. LANCTOT:**

14 I'm Randy Lanctot. I represent the Louisiana
15 Wildlife Federation.

16 **SENATOR MALONE:**

17 Senator Max T. Malone. I'm the Chairman of the
18 Senate Natural Resources Committee.

19 **MR. DeHON:**

20 Renee DeHon, UL from Monroe.

21 **MR. DUEX:**

22 Tim Duex, UL-Lafayette.

23 **MR. HANSON:**

24 I'm Brad Hanson representing the Louisiana
25 Geological Survey.

26 **MR. HANSON:**

27 Gary Hanson, LSU in Shreveport.

28 **MR. OWEN:**

29 I'm Eugene Owen, representing the Municipal Water
30

1 Association.

2 **MR. GUIDRY:**

3 I'm George Guidry with Georgia-Pacific representing
4 the Louisiana Pulp and Paper Association.

5 **MR. STAHR:**

6 I'm Charlie Stahr representing the Pulp and Paper
7 Association.

8 **MR. GOREE:**

9 Mike Goree, I'm representing here -- I'm serving as
10 the Irrigation Association's representative and also
11 representing the newly-created Louisiana Irrigation
12 Association.

13 **MR. PRATT:**

14 I'm Jim Pratt representing Sabine River Authority.

15 **MR. WILLIAMS:**

16 Denny Williams representing the Association of
17 Electric Utilities.

18 **MR. RODI:**

19 I'm Ron Rodi representing the Louisiana Engineering
20 Society.

21 **MR. BRANCH:**

22 I'm Bill Branch, LSU-Ag Center, Chancellor's Office.

23 **MR RICHARDSON:**

24 Bill Richardson, LSU Ag Center.

25 **MR. NELSON:**

26 Jim Nelson, Louisiana Tech/Engineering Department.

27 **MR. COLEMAN:**

28 Gene Coleman, representing the Sparta Commission.

29 **MR. LITTERAL:**

30

1 Charles Litteral, I reside in Jennings, Louisiana.
2 I represent the Louisiana Cattlemen's Association.

3 **MR. SMITH:**

4 Morgan Smith, I'm on the Sparta Board, but I'm
5 representing the Louisiana Rice Growers.

6 **MR. BARR:**

7 Jesse Barr, representing Louisiana Cotton Producers.

8 **MR. McCANN:**

9 Kyle McCann, representing the Louisiana Farm Bureau
10 Federation.

11 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

12 Okay. Great turnout. We appreciate it very much,
13 and I guess we need to recognize Representative N. J.
14 Damico.

15 **REPRESENTATIVE DAMICO:**

16 You were going too fast, I couldn't catch up. I'm
17 Representative Damico, Chairman of the Environmental
18 Committee, and I have my secretary with me, Ms. Terry
19 deBen.

20 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

21
22 Nice to have you, Mr. Damico. Okay. With that, I
23 think it's probably timely to introduce Tony Duplechin.
24 Tony is the director of the new Ground Water Resources
25 Division in the Office of Conservation. Tony is the --
26 that's the new division that was created pursuant to the
27 2003 legislation that was passed and authorized the
28 Office of Conservation to set up this Division to handle
29 the responsibilities of the Ground Water management in
30 Louisiana, so we've done that. Tony is going to pretty

1 much control the agenda here. Does everybody have copies
2 of the agenda, Tony?

3 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

4 All the Commissioners had copies placed at their
5 place, and hopefully members of the Task Force picked it
6 up from the table outside.

7 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

8 Okay. Well, Tony, why don't you start with
9 introducing your staff and, you know, because these are
10 the people that are going to be the technical people and
11 the administrative people that are going to be managing
12 the Ground Water Division, so, Tony, do you want to take
13 it up?

14 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

15 Okay. I wanted to start off by thanking everyone
16 for taking the time to come out this morning. This
17 really is a good turnout, and I know some people had
18 conflicts with other meetings. Some of you already know,
19 members of my staff have increased a little bit since we
20 were last together. Tim Seiler is the geologist who's
21 been working with us since 2001 when we first got started
22 under Act 446, and Tim has got a real good knowledge of
23 ground water because he's worked in the private sector
24 and worked in the private sector with the development of
25 remediation plans and evaluation of groundwater
26 facilities. His duties here include evaluating the
27 impacts of proposed well installations, reviewing
28 peripheral ground water applications, analyzing available
29 geologic data on Louisiana's ground water and alternate
30

1 sources of water and developing rules and regulations for
2 the program.

3 Our new geologist is Bill Walter. He's new to the
4 program, but he's not new to the Office of Conservation
5 or the world of ground water. Bill spent time logging
6 wells with Schlumberger when he got out of college and
7 then worked for U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources
8 Division, here in Baton Rouge. In 1981 he joined the
9 Office of Conservation working with the underground
10 injection program. He ventured out in 1996 and spent
11 some time with the water resources of the Department of
12 Transportation and Development and then decided he wanted
13 to get involved a little bit in computer programming, so
14 he spent two and a half years with the Louisiana State
15 Employees Retirement System, LASERS, and I was able to
16 talk him out of that job and back over here since I
17 really needed someone who knew ground water and knew
18 database development as well. And his work has included
19 being an advisor on ground water issues and working with
20 us to develop our ground water management program and
21 database.

22
23 Charlotte Hardison is our Administrative Specialist.
24 She graduated from LSU in 1975 and has worked off and on
25 in state government since then. In addition to her
26 numerous administrative duties, she has experience in
27 program development.

28 And as for myself, I started working with the U.S.
29 Geological Survey here in Baton Rouge when I got out of
30 college and came over to the Office of Conservation in

1 1981 after Louisiana had initially received primacy for
2 its coal mine regulatory program. In 2001, I was asked
3 to serve as Chief of Staff of the Ground Water Management
4 Commission, and in July of 2003 became Director of the
5 new Ground Water Resources Division here in Conservation.
6 So that will bring you up to date on who the players are
7 from this side at any rate.

8 I would like to go over what some of the duties and
9 responsibilities of the Office of Conservation, the
10 Ground Water Resources Commission and the Task Force are,
11 and I'll start off with the Office of Conservation. All
12 of this is found in Act 49 which I've placed a copy for
13 each Commissioner at their place. Okay. The
14 Commissioner of Conservation is responsible for the
15 administration of all matters related to the management
16 of the State's ground water resources. He has the
17 authority to make any reasonable rules, regulations and
18 orders for the following purposes: to do all things
19 necessary to prevent the waste of water resources; to
20 prevent or alleviate damaging or potentially damaging
21 saltwater movement or water level decline and loss of
22 sustainability in our aquifers; to prevent subsidence of
23 the land surface caused by withdrawal of the ground
24 water; to require registration of all new wells by the
25 owners; to ensure efficient and effective collection of
26 well data through cooperation with the Department of
27 Transportation; and registration of these wells will be
28 in the form of a notice of intent to drill submitted to
29 the Commissioner at least 60 days prior to the drilling
30

1 of the well, and once again, this is by the well owner.
2 The following types of wells are exempt from the prior
3 notification requirement: domestic wells, replacement
4 wells, drilling rig supply wells, drought relief wells
5 and any other well that the Commissioner may exempt for
6 just cause. And the notification for these wells must be
7 submitted to the Commissioner within 60 days following
8 the installation of the well. The Commissioner is
9 authorized to collect data with respect to water wells
10 and water resources and continue the development of a
11 state water ground water resource management program,
12 which will include but not be limited to an evaluation of
13 the State's water resources, development of a water use
14 conservation plan, study of alternatives to water use,
15 the stress of conservation as the primary mechanism for
16 protection of the State's ground water resources, and
17 development of a contingency plan to respond to ground
18 water emergencies. He's authorized to authorize the use
19 of temporary drought relief wells for agriculture in
20 times of drought and to enter into interagency agreements
21 and interstate compacts in order to manage ground water
22 resources.
23

24 The duties and responsibilities of the Commission
25 are as follows: To review and approve or reject any
26 orders of the Commissioner placing restrictions on wells
27 upon petition by the owner of the affected well or
28 proposed well or any owner of a well in the same aquifer
29 which may be adversely impacted by a well in question.
30 Now, in such cases, the Commissioner would not serve as a

1 voting member of the Commission.

2 The Commission is also to review rules and
3 regulations proposed by the Commissioner pursuant to
4 proper administration and enforcement of the program.
5 They are to assist in the continued development in
6 cooperation with the Commissioner of a statewide ground
7 water resource management program and to review any
8 contingency plans developed by the Commissioner in
9 response to ground water emergencies. The Commission may
10 direct the Commissioner to promulgate rules and
11 regulations for the appointment or designation up to five
12 regional bodies based upon the general locations of the
13 major aquifer systems and water sources of the State.
14 And finally, at their discretion, the Commission is
15 authorized to attend all public meetings called by the
16 Commissioner pursuant to his power and duties in the law.

17 The Ground Water Management Advisory Task Force
18 shall assist the Commissioner of Conservation and the
19 Ground Water Resource Commission in continuing to develop
20 the statewide ground water resource management program.
21 The plans should stress conservation as a primary
22 mechanism for the protection of the State's ground water
23 resources, and the Task Force is the same for the
24 Commission, shall meet at least once per quarter or more
25 frequently as necessary. Any questions?

26 (No response.)

27 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

28 Good. Moving right along, I'd like to go over some
29 of the accomplishments that the Division has made since
30

1 we started off on July 1st of last year. The Division
2 has been very active since its inception. One of the
3 most important functions of the new division is to inform
4 the public of the new requirements for owners of wells to
5 notify the Office of Conservation of the wells and
6 pending installation. So far, we have sent out
7 approximately 3500 letters, brochures and notification
8 forms to well owners, water well drillers, industry and
9 local government, to inform them of the requirements of
10 Act 49, and I've put copies of all of these at your place
11 as well.

12 It's also important to keep Members of the
13 Commission, Task Force and any other interested parties
14 informed of what's going on. We do this via e-mail
15 mostly, and Charlotte has prepared some forms. I know
16 there was one put out at each Commissioner's place, and
17 there were some at the table that we ask you to fill out
18 with the pertinent information so that we can update our
19 mailing list and database and keep in contact with
20 everybody.

21 The Division staff has also made presentations to
22 several groups and manned booths at several meetings
23 since we came into being on July 1st. These have
24 included: Louisiana Farm Bureau, Sparta Groundwater
25 Conservation District, Capital Area Ground Water
26 Conservation District, the St. Tammany League of Women
27 Voters, the Louisiana Water Technology Conference, The
28 Louisiana Association of Conservation Districts, the DEQ
29 Ground Water Advisory Group, the DEQ Conference on Waste
30

1 and the Environment, and the Louisiana Conference on
2 Water Supply, Sewage and Industrial Waste. And we also
3 plan on having a booth at Baton Rouge's Annual Earth Day
4 Celebration on April 18th where we will have information
5 on what the program is about, what we're doing, and the
6 importance of conserving our water resources.

7 Since July 1st, the Division has received some 300
8 water well notification forms. To keep track of the
9 water wells that must be reported to the Division under
10 Act 49, the Division Staff has been working closely with
11 the Department of Natural Resources, Information
12 Technology Division, to develop several databases. The
13 staff also has used well registrations provided by the
14 water well drillers to DOTD and compared them to the
15 information sheet that we received. We've also worked
16 with our IT Division to keep our website up to date.

17 As we've already stated, Act 49 created the Ground
18 Water Resources Commission within the Office of
19 Conservation, and the Task Force as well, and as I said
20 before, we will endeavor to keep everyone informed of
21 what's going on. The Division has also assisted the
22 other divisions in the Office of Conservation in the
23 review of several State projects and any effect they may
24 have on ground water resources in the area in which
25 they're being conducted. To date, approximately some 45
26 such reviews have been conducted. Assistance has also
27 been rendered to the LOC Engineering Division and some of
28 their reviews of the Hackberry Strategic Petroleum
29 Reserve, and the Division has played a part in
30

1 determining the extent of fresh ground water in the
2 Cameron Meadow Field as part of the Office of
3 Conservation's review of alleged problems in that area.

4 Act 49 makes the Commissioner of Conservation
5 responsible for the determination of critical ground
6 water areas within the state. To this end, the Division
7 staff has worked on updating the rules that had been
8 promulgated for this under Act 446. The Commissioner
9 this week issued emergency rules for critical ground
10 water area applications, public hearings and water well
11 notification requirements. And permanent rules were
12 published in this month's issue of the *Louisiana Register*
13 and are currently undergoing the process under the
14 Administrative Procedure Act.

15
16 And at this time I'll ask Tim Seiler to come up. He
17 has been working on these rules really ever since we
18 first got started under Act 446, and he will explain some
19 of the differences between the rules that are in place
20 now under Act 446 and the emergency rule and the proposed
21 rules that were published this month.

22 **MR. SEILER:**

23 Good morning. I'm Tim Seiler, the Staff Geologist
24 from the Ground Water Resources Division. As we all
25 know, Act 49 of the 2003 Legislative Session changes the
26 primary authority for the ground water management from
27 Ground Water Management Commission to the Commissioner of
28 Conservation. The authorities granted to the
29 Commissioner are outlined in Revised Statute Title
30 38:3097.3, or page 11 of the Act.

1 One of the authorities granted to the Commission
2 pursuant to this section is the authority to make
3 reasonable rules and regulations for the proper
4 administration and enforcement of Act 49. Since Act 49
5 changes the primary authority for Ground Water
6 Management, the rules promulgated under Act 446 of the
7 2001 legislature are no longer technically accurate.
8 Therefore, a notice of intent was published in the March
9 2004 issue of the *Louisiana Register*, which is also
10 available for review on the Office of State Register's
11 website. A link to the State Register's website is
12 located on the Ground Water Resources Division website.

13 The changes presented in the NOI filed with the
14 Office of State Register this month primarily fall under
15 five general categories: 1) the changes of authority
16 references from commission to commissioner; 2) the
17 rewording of certain definitions and sections to agree
18 with Act 49; 3) minor editorial corrections such as more
19 properly codifying sections and spelling out acronyms; 4)
20 insert sections for the removal or modification of a
21 ground water area designation, the requirements of which
22 parallel the requirements for the designation of a
23 critical ground water area; and 5) the additions of a few
24 all new sections regarding appeals and water well
25 notification requirements by owner. We're now in the
26 public comment phase which will last until April 27,
27 2004, at 4:30 p.m. Interested persons may submit written
28 comments by mail or fax until then or call the Ground
29 Water Resources Division. The contact information is
30

1 provided in the NOI.

2 On April 29, 2004, a hearing on the NOI will be held
3 at 9:00 a.m. in the Conservation and Mineral Resources
4 hearing room, or the La Belle room right here. After the
5 hearing, the Ground Water Resources Division will file a
6 second report with the Oversight Committee. There is no
7 mandated time frame by the APA to get the report to the
8 Committee, however, to meet the June 10th deadline to
9 insert the rule for the June 2004 publication, the second
10 report should be submitted no later than May 5, 2004.

11 Within approximately 30 days of this submittal, the
12 Oversight Committee may hold a committee hearing to
13 review the rules. Thirty days from May 5th brings us to
14 June 4th. Should the Oversight Committee meeting be held
15 on June 4th and issue a favorable review and no
16 substantive changes are made, the Division would have six
17 days to finalize the rules and submit it to the Office of
18 State Register for the June 2004 publication. The rule
19 would then be promulgated on the date of publication.
20

21 Should the Committee issue a nonfavorable review,
22 the Committee has four days to file a report with the
23 State Register's Office, the Agency and the Governor.
24 The Governor has ten days to approve or disapprove the
25 Committee's findings. If the Governor holds up the
26 disapproval, then the whole process needs to start over
27 again from going to the financial office to resubmitting
28 the NOI.

29 If there are any substantive changes made to the
30 NOI, another public hearing is required 30 days after the

1 notice is published in the *Louisiana Register* and another
2 report to the Oversight Committee. In other words, the
3 whole process starts all over if it's disapproved. I'll
4 pass out copies of the old rule. I believe in your
5 package you have copies of the Notice of Intent, but if
6 anybody wants to make any comparison or have any
7 questions with the changes that I've made.

8 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

9 Don't we already have a copy?

10 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

11 No, you have a copy of the old rule.

12 **MR. SEILER:**

13 I'm passing out copies of the old rule that was
14 promulgated under 446. The rule that you all have, I
15 believe, is the notice of intent and maybe a copy of the
16 declaration of emergency that's been recently published.
17 The declaration of emergency was submitted to the Office
18 of State Register on March 23rd, and is on our website as
19 of March 23rd and will be published in the NOI -- I mean,
20 in the *Louisiana Register* -- in April.

21 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

22 Does anybody have any questions for Tim? Thank you.
23 Continue on.

24 **COMMISSIONER WALKER:**

25 Tim?

26 **MR. SEILER:**

27 Yes, ma'am.

28 **COMMISSIONER WALKER:**

29 I have a question. Would you go into a little bit
30

1 more about what you were talking about, number four, the
2 designation changes.

3 **MR. SEILER:**

4 Yes.

5 **COMMISSIONER WALKER:**

6 Point out where they are.

7 **MR. SEILER:**

8 If you'll look at Chapter 3, Section 3 -- or 303 --
9 Paragraph B -- or actually Subsection B rather -- you'll
10 see, "The notice of intent to apply for the removal or
11 modification of a critical ground water area destination
12 shall be published in the official parish journal," et
13 cetera. It basically parallels Section A, or Subsection
14 A, which was in the original rule under 446. Basically,
15 you've got to give the public a way out of a critical
16 area as well as going into it. I mean, that's what the
17 removal and modification is. As time goes on and the
18 situation improves, the same restrictions may not apply
19 or be necessary. They need a way to back away from it.

20 **COMMISSIONER WALKER:**

21 Thank you.

22 **MR. DUPLUCHIN:**

23 Thank you, Tim. The next item on the agenda is an
24 update on the Sparta Critical Ground Water
25 area destination application. So I'd like to go to the
26 timeline of the application for the benefit of those who
27 weren't able to follow everything up to this date on it.

28 On June 6, 2002, a notice of intent was published.
29 This notice of intent was published in the parish
30

1 journals of the parishes which were going to be affected
2 by the application. This was published by the applicant,
3 which was the Sparta Groundwater District.

4 On July 25th, the Sparta Groundwater Conservation
5 District Commission's application for designation of
6 ground water -- critical ground water area -- was
7 received by Ground Water Management Commission Staff.

8 On August 7th, the staff requested of the Sparta
9 Commission additional information for the application.
10 This additional information was received on August 16th.
11 On August 23rd, the application was deemed to be
12 administratively complete.

13 On October 9th, and initial public hearing was
14 scheduled at the Ruston High School auditorium. Notice
15 of hearing was mailed to each official parish journal in
16 the parishes affected by the application. A CD-Rom or
17 hard copy of the Sparta Groundwater Conservation District
18 Commission's application along with all supporting
19 information was mailed out to the libraries and police
20 juries in the area under the petition.

21 On October 16th, the applicant confirmed the receipt
22 by the libraries and police juries of this information.
23 On October 23rd, the Office contacted all the libraries
24 and police juries to verify this, and on November 19th,
25 the hearing was held, and I know some of you were at that
26 hearing, and it lasted some 2-1/2 hours, and we had 300
27 people in attendance. No decision was made by the Ground
28 Water Management Commission on the application.

29 As the calendar wound down towards July 1st of 2003,
30

1 the Sparta Commission sent a letter to the Office of
2 Conservation asking that the application be considered
3 under the new law, Act 49. The Office replied to the
4 Commission saying that the Office would consider the
5 application and that the staff would continue to review
6 it. In one part of the letter, we stated that the
7 findings would be presented to this Commission prior to
8 an order being issued.

9 In looking at that over the past few weeks, it was
10 decided by Conservation's legal counsel that that may be
11 ex parte discussions on this application, so those
12 findings will not be presented to this Commission. The
13 order will be issued, and then there will be public
14 hearings held and a chance for comment on that order. So
15 that's where the review of that application stands right
16 now.

17 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

18 So you don't have any definite timeline for --

19 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

20 I would say by the time the next quarter is up, I
21 would hope to have the findings finalized and the order,
22 proposed order, given the Commissioner of Conservation.

23 **COMMISSIONER DURRETT:**

24 Mr. Commissioner, can I ask a question?

25 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

26 Sure. Yes, sir, Mr. Durrett. Go ahead.

27 **COMMISSIONER DURRETT:**

28 First of all, let me say that the time involved,
29 this Sparta Commission is very disappointed in the time
30

1 it's taken. I think when we met last year we were going
2 to get an answer by May, and we didn't get an answer,
3 yeah or nay. So the question now is when is this order -
4 - what is the time involved that you will issue the order
5 or that there will be an order?

6 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

7 Well, I knew that that's a question from a lot of
8 people, and Tony just replied within the next quarter.

9 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

10 Right.

11 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

12 There should be a draft order that will be subject
13 to public hearings. They're going to be held in the
14 local area -- well, do you want to explain?

15 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

16 Look in the emergency rules that went into effect
17 this week. It covers how we proceed.

18 **COMMISSIONER DURRETT:**

19 I understand that but we've got to get to that
20 point. What do you mean by the next quarter? Can you --

21 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

22 The next calendar quarter.

23 **COMMISSIONER DURRETT:**

24 So that's about July -- by June, the end of June?

25 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

26 By the end of June.

27 **COMMISSIONER DURRETT:**

28 Is there more information that needs to be supplied,
29 or what is the --
30

1 **MR. DUPLECHIN:**

2 I think we can address that by the time this comment
3 period is over.

4 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

5 I think the application was determined to be
6 complete, and we had initial hearings, and I believe, you
7 know, all the evidence that, you know, was to be
8 received, we had it, so the application is ready to be
9 acted on.

10 **COMMISSIONER DURRETT:**

11 That's almost two years it was complete. August of
12 '02 it was complete.

13 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

14 Right.

15 **COMMISSIONER DURRETT:**

16 Okay.

17 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

18 There were, you know, complicated things with the
19 changes and the administration, the difference in the old
20 statute and the new statute. It was a bit confusing. We
21 were organizing the Division to handle this, so there
22 were a lot of unusual delays in this application, but I
23 think we're set now to move forward with it.

24 **COMMISSIONER DURRETT:**

25 So it's nothing we can do to speed up the process?
26 So there is no more information we can provide or
27 anything else we need to do?
28

29 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

30 No, there's no more information, Mr. Durrett. Tony

1 and his staff will move as quickly as possible, I assume,
2 on it.

3 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

4 Yes, sir.

5 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

6 Okay.

7 **COMMISSIONER DURRETT:**

8 Just to clarify in my mind, the new rules or the new
9 regulations don't change the information that we supplied
10 or the evaluation of the information we supplied, does
11 it?

12 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

13 No.

14 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

15 No. Not that I'm aware of, no, sir.

16 **COMMISSIONER DURRETT:**

17 Okay. Then I'm not sure I understand why it's going
18 to take another quarter to evaluate it.

19 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

20 Tony?

21 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

22 By no later than the end of this quarter.

23 **COMMISSIONER DURRETT:**

24 The end of the next quarter?

25 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

26 The end of the next quarter, April, May, June.

27 Those are good questions, and we appreciate them very
28 much.

29 **COMMISSIONER DURRETT:**

1 Is that recommendation, that means it's going to
2 come to this Commission, or the orders or how?

3 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

4 The order will be issued -- the draft order will be
5 issued by the Commissioner.

6 **COMMISSIONER DURRETT:**

7 To?

8 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

9 To the Sparta Groundwater Conservation Commission.

10 **COMMISSIONER DURRETT:**

11 Okay.

12 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

13 And then explain the detail, the procedure after the
14 draft order is issued.

15 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

16 Okay. The initial hearing, as we said, was held on
17 November 19th of 2002. After hearings are held, the
18 Commissioner shall issue a written decision in the form
19 of a draft order based on scientifically sound data
20 gathered from the application, the participants in the
21 public hearing and any other relevant information. The
22 draft order shall contain a statement of findings and
23 shall include but not be limited to the designation of
24 the critical ground water area boundaries, the
25 recommended plans to preserve and manage the ground water
26 resources of the critical ground water area, and the
27 Commissioner shall make the draft order and proposed plan
28 to preserve and manage ground water resources of the
29 proposed critical ground water area available to the
30

1 applicant, participants in the original application
2 hearing and any other persons requesting a copy. The
3 Commissioner will then initiate hearings on the draft
4 order and proposed management controls in the locality of
5 those affected by the Commissioner's draft order. The
6 Commissioner shall adopt final orders and a plan to
7 preserve and manage the ground water resources after
8 completion of these hearings. Final orders will be made
9 part of the permanent record of the Commissioner and
10 shall be made available to the public upon request. And
11 critical ground water area designation orders may be
12 appealed only to the 19th Judicial District Court.

13 **COMMISSIONER DURRETT:**

14 But after those hearings are held, there's no
15 timeline involved in when the decision will be made,
16 right?

17 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

18 I didn't hear any timeline. I think, Mr. Durrett,
19 that the time really in actuality would be determined by
20 the comments received and the depth of additional work
21 that staff might need to do. I mean, it's hard to --
22 there's no time line in some of the other oil and gas
23 orders. You know, we try to do things within 30 days.
24 You know, that's a reasonable time in my opinion to try
25 and get a final order out, but it would be case specific.

26 **COMMISSIONER DURRETT:**

27 I agree with you. I just think the time that we've
28 had since we've had the public hearing to this point has
29 been a little lengthy.
30

1 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

2 Yes, sir. Okay. Thank you. Tony, a question. I'm
3 not familiar with all of the standard operating
4 procedures in the Office of Conservation. The draft
5 order is not a normal rulemaking process?

6 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

7 No.

8 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

9 That goes through APA. It's just an order is
10 issued?

11 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

12 Right. The rules that allow the Commissioner to do
13 things are -- and that goes through the APA.

14 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

15 Okay.

16 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

17 That's what -- that's the rules.

18 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

19 That sets the framework up?

20 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

21 For the register, yes, sir.

22 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

23 I'm just trying to clarify. My agency, basically
24 everything is through a full promulgated rule, but this
25 is a framework to make a decision basically.

26 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

27 Yes.

28 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

29 Okay.
30

1 **MR. DUPLECHIN:**

2 The next thing I'd like to go over is the
3 Commission's charge to the Task Force, which is assisting
4 in the development of the statewide groundwater
5 management program.

6 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

7 Tony, could I ask you something?

8 **MR. DUPLECHIN:**

9 Yes, sir.

10 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

11 Is -- I believe you said a minute ago that a
12 function of the Commission is to review the rules that
13 are --

14 **MR. DUPLECHIN:**

15 Yes.

16 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

17 -- proposed by the Commissioner, and we have
18 proposed rules now.

19 **MR. DUPLECHIN:**

20 Right.

21 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

22 So have we officially asked the Commission to review
23 his rules?

24 **MR. DUPLECHIN:**

25 I have not sent notification to them, but that is a
26 good idea. We could send that out, and they can comment
27 within the comment period set up by APA.

28 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

29 But I guess it would be within the timeframe of the
30

1 administrative procedure act that we go through to
2 promulgate any rules, you know, for the State, and all
3 these rules are subject to legislative committee
4 oversight and, you know, it would be, you know, just the
5 normal way rules are promulgated. So the Commission also
6 should -- may or may not have comments on the proposed
7 rules.

8 **COMMISSIONER DURRETT:**

9 Can I ask another question related to that?

10 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

11 Yes, sir.

12 **COMMISSIONER DURRETT:**

13 Do the new rules that you have proposed here affect
14 our application for critical destination in that what
15 we've done so far is not going to have to be redone?
16

17 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

18 No, sir, the application won't have to be redone
19 under what has been proposed.

20 **COMMISSIONER DURRETT:**

21 Okay.

22 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

23 I think it's usually --

24 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

25 It's what the procedure is. The requirements of
26 what has to be in the application hasn't changed.

27 **COMMISSIONER DURRETT:**

28 But the procedure, the public hearing we've already
29 had, will suffice. We're not going to go back to the
30 start?

1 **MR. DUPLÉCHIN:**

2 Right. They don't have to have another additional
3 public hearing.

4 **COMMISSIONER DURRETT:**

5 Okay.

6 **MR. DUPLÉCHIN:**

7 As you know, the Task Force was recreated by Act 49,
8 and everyone that participated on the Task Force between
9 2001 and 2003 I think really did a very good job getting
10 together in the committees that were formed and hopefully
11 will continue to do so. Although, the committees that
12 were formed under the old Task Force and hope to pick up
13 again under this task force, the Public Supply Committee
14 came up with the responsibility for assisting in the
15 general needs of the municipal water supply districts and
16 the area's specific emergency response alternatives.

17 The Economic Development Committee is responsible
18 for assisting in the effects of economic development in
19 critical ground water areas as a result of proposed
20 management rules. The Policy Committee for assisting in
21 formulating the rules and regulations to manage a
22 critical ground water area. The Technical Committee is
23 responsible for assisting in the review of critical
24 ground water area determinations. The Ecology Committee
25 is responsible for assisting in determining the effect on
26 the ecology and/or environment, especially the effect on
27 natural habitats of fish, wildlife and recreation in
28 response to proposed ground and surface water use in
29 critical ground water areas and to note the need for the
30

1 availability of technical expertise of personnel from the
2 Departments of Wildlife and Fisheries, Environmental
3 Quality and Health and Hospitals. The Surface and
4 Groundwater Committee is responsible for assisting in
5 understanding the overall surface and ground water use
6 within each jurisdiction including the volume of surface
7 water available for conversion to drinking water and
8 other water use. The Agriculture Committee's goal is to
9 ensure adequate water resources, both ground and surface,
10 for our state's crop demand by cooperating with
11 sustaining aquifer and stream flow health and exploring
12 incentives for conservation of all water resources. The
13 Industrial Committee is responsible for determining the
14 current industrial use of ground and surface water,
15 forecasting water use and quality needs of ground water
16 and surface water, exploring incentives for a switch from
17 ground water to surface water, identifying impediments or
18 consequences to switch from ground water to surface
19 water, participate in data and model verification and in
20 the evaluation of new technologies. And the Outreach
21 Committee is responsible for assisting in educating the
22 public on why we need a comprehensive state water policy
23 and why water conservation is important.

24
25 And I know we have almost half of the Task Force
26 here today, so I hope to touch base with them afterwards
27 and see about getting these committees back together
28 again and hopefully getting the Task Force to meet as a
29 group within the next month or so to continue with these
30 efforts.

1 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

2 The statutes are pretty clear on who chairs the
3 Commission, but it's pretty much unclear as to the
4 organization of the Task Force.

5 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

6 Right.

7 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

8 And just a suggestion that the Task Force needs to
9 organize and get maybe a contact person, if you want to
10 call it that or something. I don't have any particular
11 guidance there. Maybe some other Commission Members
12 might, but I think it's important to at least have a
13 contact person that -- you know, we've got 49 members in
14 the Task Force. That's almost an unmanageable group, in
15 my opinion, in my humble opinion as I said, so it needs
16 to have some kind of an organization in and of itself.

17 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

18 And we will work on that.

19 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

20 Okay.

21 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

22 One item we left off of the agenda, and it was
23 oversight on my part, was for public comments. So if
24 it's okay with the Commission, I know someone from the
25 public would like to make some comments to the
26 Commission. So if there are no objections.

27 **MR. ROWLAND:**

28 Thank you, Commissioners and Anthony. My name is
29 Marty Rowland. I'm a civil environmental engineer
30

1 representing myself at this point. I made a presentation
2 to the Governor's Task Force in early 2001 concerning
3 research I had performed as part of my dissertation at
4 the University of New Orleans, and what I have for each
5 of the Commission Members is an update of information
6 that I presented back in 2001. In fact, this is the same
7 report I presented to the Baton Rouge Geological society
8 in December 2003.

9 Essentially, what I've done in this report is taken
10 publicly available published data looking at the
11 sustainability of the Sparta Aquifer Wells, the Southern
12 Hills Wells from the Baton Rouge and the Chicot Aquifer
13 and updating essentially a report the USGS has published
14 dated 2002, Tomaszewski, Lovelace and Ensminger, and in
15 that report, if you use the criteria that Arkansas uses
16 for critical ground water areas being overall downgraded
17 one foot per year increase, all three of the major
18 aquifers outside of the Mississippi River Alluvial
19 Aquifer is a critical area. The USGS report that I
20 updated identify that all those three aquifers I
21 mentioned are -- well, there are wells in those areas
22 where the levels and the rates are greater than one foot
23 per year. What I -- where report went from 1990 to 2000,
24 I took the same data and went from 1995 to October 2003,
25 and show from this published data that the rates are
26 actually worse than what the USGS have identified.

27 So what I'm doing is not just waving a flag and
28 saying everything is terrible. What I'm trying to do is
29 suggest to the Commission that you take some performance
30

1 measure such as the feet per year drawdown as a
2 performance measure on the health of the aquifer and on a
3 periodic basis look at selected wells and everybody agree
4 that these are appropriate wells to look at and say are
5 we achieving sustainability, and if not, suggest ways
6 that we can improve. It's just a matter of if we have a
7 Commission, a Department and a Task Force with a charge
8 to come up with ground water policy to achieve
9 sustainability, you have to have some kind of measurement
10 so that you look at point-to-point and say, you know,
11 we're not there yet. Let's try this and that for a
12 period of time and you say, yes, we've got that.

13 What I'd like to do is thank you for the opportunity
14 to present what I give to you, and if there are any
15 questions after I give this to the Commission, I'd be
16 more than happy to take any questions or to come back the
17 next time.

18 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

19
20 Okay. We appreciate you sharing that with us. Are
21 you going to pass those out? I think the Task Force
22 might be interested in that, too. We could make more
23 copies.

24 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

25 We'll get it to them. We'll make copies available
26 to the Task Force.

27 **MR. ROWLAND:**

28 If there is anybody in the audience who wants a
29 copy, if they give me their business card.

30 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

1 Okay. Thank you. And I guess if they need to
2 contact you, you'll be here a few minutes after the
3 meeting and they can get your name and address. Suzette,
4 are you going to get his name and address? Okay. That
5 will be good. Okay, Tony.

6 **MR. DUPLÉCHIN:**

7 The final -- well, are there any more public
8 comments? Would anyone from the Task Force like to make
9 a comment?

10 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

11 Yes, sir. Come up and identify yourself, please.

12 **MR. OWEN:**

13 Mr. Chairman, my name is Eugene Owen. I'm a member
14 of the Task Force and served last time on the Task Force
15 as chairman of the Public Supply Committee as well as the
16 Economic Development Committee. What I'd like to do is
17 to challenge the Commission in its administration of this
18 act and the intent behind the act to foster a policy
19 which can develop a better use of our natural resources
20 which are abundant with respect to water rather than
21 presiding over a group of rules which just simply
22 addresses a potential scarcity as it may develop either
23 now or in the future.

24 I think that there are three principal competitors
25 for our natural resources in the field of water. One is
26 agriculture, the second is industry, and the third is
27 public supply. To some extent, each of these competitors
28 can avail itself of surface water or ground water. In
29 some areas, surface water is not abundantly available.
30

1 Fortunately, this state has abundant resources in
2 all of those areas so that we can truthfully say that we
3 have abundant water resources. But in using the water
4 resources naturally, the first use is always the most
5 economical, the cheapest use of water, and that's the
6 American system. We develop our cheapest resources
7 first, and if the development of the cheapest resources
8 constitutes a looming scarcity, then we have to address
9 it. I think this Commission has a unique opportunity to
10 develop a series of policies which will simultaneously
11 preside over an economy of abundance in making a better
12 use of our resources and encouraging policies which can
13 encourage a tradeoff of the use of ground water as
14 opposed to surface water, and I think you can do it in
15 the context of encouraging economic development as
16 opposed to penalizing economic development by restricted
17 policies.

18
19 So my hope is that this Commission will foster a
20 drive toward developing policies which will promote this
21 economy of abundance rather than an economy of scarcity
22 and presiding over a scarcity of resources, and I can
23 assure you that from what I've observed in the last
24 couple of years, the Task Force, to the extent that is
25 empowered to do so, is capable of and there are people on
26 there that have the ideas that can put forward the kind
27 of policies that can make it possible to do exactly what
28 I am suggesting. Thank you.

29 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

30 Thank you, sir. Those were very good comments. We

1 appreciate it. Anyone else wish to make a statement?
2 Comments?

3 (No response.)

4 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

5 Okay, Tony, go ahead.

6 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

7 The final agenda item is scheduling the next
8 meeting.

9 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

10 We've got one more.

11 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

12 Okay. Sorry.

13 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

14 That's all right.

15 **MR. BRANCH:**

16 Bill Branch, LSU Ag Center. In the last previous
17 couple of years, the Governor's representative has pretty
18 much scheduled a task force to meet with the Commission,
19 and then the individual committees have scheduled their
20 own meetings as they've felt necessary. Couples who were
21 just talking thought that if we need to look at a new
22 procedure, perhaps those of us on the Task Force could
23 meet after the Commission has adjourned today and talk
24 about organizing.

25 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

26 That's a great idea, yes. That's kind of where we
27 were headed, I think, so good idea. So the Task Force
28 will have a meeting and try and get organized and
29 whatever. So good idea, Bill. Go ahead.
30

1 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

2 Any other comments?

3 (No response.)

4 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

5 Okay. Dovetailing in with that final agenda item is
6 schedule for next meeting. As stated previously, Act 49
7 requires the Commission to meet quarterly, so April, May,
8 June. I'm not sure what other meetings are scheduled
9 right now.

10 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

11 Do you have a suggested date? It's awful hard to --

12 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

13 It is very hard to even on a one-month time frame to
14 plan a meeting ahead. Would the Commission rather that
15 we look at the calendar and give out a date? I know the
16 session is going to be starting here before too long, and
17 it will be over the third week in June.

18 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

19 Fine.

20 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

21 Would the Commission rather wait until after the
22 session is over to get back together?

23 **COMMISSIONER DURRETT:**

24 Yes, I would agree to that. Let's meet after the
25 session.

26 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

27 Okay. So --

28 **COMMISSIONER DURRETT:**

29 That's a good idea.
30

1 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

2 So why don't we shoot for sometime between the 22nd
3 and 30th of June? Any day of the week preferential for
4 Commission Members? Friday seems to have gotten --

5 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

6 I don't like Fridays.

7 **COMMISSIONER DURRETT:**

8 Can I make one comment? I don't know about the day
9 of the week, but --

10 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

11 Time of day?

12 **COMMISSIONER DURRETT:**

13 -- time of the day would be easier for some of us
14 that have to ride so far if it was like we were meeting,
15 at 1:30, 1:00 or 1:30.

16 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

17 I think that's a good idea, because some people have
18 to travel, and it's a burden to get here at 9:00 or
19 10:00, at 9:30 or whatever. I definitely think
20 afternoons would be better. I know that as far as
21 conservation goes, Tuesdays are pretty much out for this
22 room. We have oil and gas hearings every Tuesday. And I
23 think our pipeline division and injection and mining
24 division use this room on Thursdays, but I can't speak
25 for other agencies. That's just right now what we do.

26 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

27 Well, why don't we tentatively look at Wednesday,
28 June 23rd, at 1:30 in the afternoon.

29 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

1 All I can say, that looks good at this point.

2 **MR. DUPLECHIN:**

3 And we'll see what else is going on that day.

4 **COMMISSIONER ZAUNBRECHER:**

5 Jim, could we ask the Commission for -- I mean, a
6 little housekeeping-type input, I've got a couple things
7 I'd like to ask.

8 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

9 Sure. I'm sorry. I need to do that, yes. The
10 Commissioners are free to speak up when they want.
11 Linda, you want to --

12 **COMMISSIONER ZAUNBRECHER:**

13 Well, one thing, when we meet again, I'd like to
14 have a legislative update and report because of the
15 legislation. I think that's real important. And I was
16 just asking Mr. Gulotta here who's new -- I mean, we have
17 new people, and they've not been with us for the whole
18 time, and he doesn't have a copy of C.H. Fenstermaker's
19 report. I think that's crucial to have that information
20 in everybody's hands. That's it.

21 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

22 Okay. Do we have extra copies of those, Tony?

23 **MR. DUPLECHIN:**

24 No, we don't, but we have copies of it on CD-Rom if
25 that would be sufficient.

26 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

27 I think that would certainly be a good thing to give
28 all the Commission Members, Task Force Members, too.

29 **MR. DUPLECHIN:**

1 We'll send copies of it to all the Commission
2 Members again, and it should still be accessible through
3 our web site. I will double-check that.

4 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

5 We do have a very good web site, by the way, and I
6 think Tony has a lot going on his part of it, so it will
7 quickly fill up now, I'm sure, and --

8 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

9 For those of you that don't know, our web site has
10 copies of the transcripts of all of the Commission
11 hearings since day one, a schedule of when new meetings
12 are, as well as relevant information, copies of the Act,
13 copies of the rules, proposed rules.

14 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

15 Okay. That's a good way to quickly inform
16 everyone. Do we have any other business that we need to
17 talk about today? Anybody have any comments? Well, I
18 want to thank the --

19 **MR. DUPLCHIN:**

20 I want to once more remind everyone to fill out
21 those information sheets and either leave them on the
22 table up here or get them to Charlotte so that we can
23 update our mailing list and database to keep in touch.

24 **COMMISSIONER WELSH:**

25 Okay. I want to again thank everyone for coming,
26 and I believe the Task Force wanted to get together for a
27 short meeting, and thank you again, and the meeting is
28 adjourned.
29
30

CERTIFICATE

I, LYNDA D. HABIG, Certified Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing meeting was held on March 26, 2004, in the LaBelle Room, 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; that I did report the proceedings thereof; that the foregoing pages, numbered 1 through 43, inclusive, constitute a true and correct transcript of the proceedings thereof.

LYNDA D. HABIG, CCR #95081

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